

Innovative Changes Proposed for East Fishkill

By Jennifer Cocozza, Planner

Under increased pressure to develop, East Fishkill has prepared a new comprehensive plan and accompanying local laws aimed to strike a better balance between environmental protection and the right to develop, while adding a provision that would mandate affordable housing in an ever-increasing, pricey, single-family home market. In addition, one of the proposed local laws would make East Fishkill a Greenway Compact community, solidifying southern Dutchess' membership in the program and guaranteeing them a higher priority when being considered for federal, state and local funding programs.

Although these proposed laws have yet to be adopted, we present them to you as examples of some progressive thinking in Dutchess County. We encourage each community to devise its own approaches, but examples from neighboring towns can be a helpful way to begin addressing local issues. As always, please check with your municipal attorney before adopting any proposal into law. Some interesting provisions from the proposed Comprehensive Plan and local laws include:

- ♦ **Special protections through lower densities for environmentally sensitive land** - East Fishkill re-defined "environmentally sensitive land" as being in: the one hundred year floodplain, having steep slopes (20% or more), or being in wetlands. For purposes of lot area calculation, land which is designated "environmentally sensitive" will have its lot area counted at 50% of the gross land area in meeting the bulk requirements of the zoning law.
- ♦ **Encouragement of cluster housing** - The proposed Comprehensive Plan and zoning laws re-state the benefits and need for cluster subdivisions. The Town may also mandate cluster in certain instances. In addition, the proposed law allows small retail and professional uses in cluster developments by issuance of a special use permit by the Planning Board.

The inclusion of such uses are important to reduce vehicle trips by allowing residents to walk, rather than drive, to such establishments.

- ♦ **Increased setback requirements for I-84 and the Taconic State Parkway** - The Taconic State Parkway is eligible to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been designated by the New York State Legislature as a



Taconic State Parkway

State Scenic Byway in 1992 and has been nominated as a National Scenic Byway. The views to and from this regional historical asset are very important to protect. The proposed local law would require a minimum 100 foot setback from the edge of both I-84 and the Taconic State

Parkway right-of-way to any structure, building or parking area. While this setback has been obeyed unofficially by most property owners, it serves to guarantee a minimum distance from the scenic roadway, benefiting motorists and homeowners alike.

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New Stormwater Regulations to Affect Dutchess

By Lynette Thorne, Planner

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established the second phase of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Storm Water Program to protect our waters from the effects of polluted stormwater runoff. The Stormwater Phase II Final Rule builds upon the existing Phase I, with additional requirements that operators of small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and small construction sites comply with federal stormwater management regulations. Implementation of the program will begin this year.

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East Fishkill has also proposed other, more neighborhood and community-centered regulations. These regulations aim to provide more choices to individuals living in and around the Hopewell Junction hamlet area:

- ◆ Provision to allow a variety of housing types in the Conservation Residential Development zone (in the Hopewell Junction area) – Up to 20% of the total number of housing units in the CRD zone may be multi-family dwellings.
- ◆ Provision of "Minor Development Road" - Allowed in cluster and CRD developments, this new road classification allows for greater design flexibility in the vertical and horizontal curvature of the roadway for those roads which carry no more than 1000 cars per day. This classification of road also requires sidewalks or other pedestrian amenities.



PLAN ON IT STAFF



Editor - Lynette Thorne
Graphic Designer - Patricia M. Houston

PLAN ON IT is a publication of the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development in conjunction with the Dutchess County Planning Federation. *PLAN ON IT* brings local, regional and state planning news to over 1600 individuals and organizations. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or wish to share your views on planning, write to Editor, *PLAN ON IT*, 27 High Street, 2nd Floor, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601, or phone (845) 486-3600. *PLAN ON IT* is also posted on our website at www.dutchessny.gov.

- ◆ Promotion of rear service streets and connector streets - A more diversified street network in and around Hopewell Junction to provide alternative choices to funneling all traffic onto Rt. 82 or Rt. 376. The Town also recently adopted the Hopewell Junction Hamlet Pedestrian Plan which focuses on enhancing pedestrian connections and access management (see April 2002 Issue).
- ◆ Provisions and incentives for affordable housing:
 - A minimum of 10% of all units *must be* affordable units in the CRD zone
 - For cluster and conventional subdivisions, an applicant may request up to 20% of all units be affordable units
 - The Town Board may approve an affordable housing project which participates in a state or federal program with up to 40% of the units being affordable

The incentive: For every affordable housing unit a developer agrees to build, the developer can build another half-unit more than what would otherwise be permitted under the Code.

Town of East Fishkill Statistics:

	1990	2000
Population	22,101	25,589
Total Households	6796	8233
Average Household Size	3.24	3.10
Average Travel Time To Work	29 minutes	38.1 minutes
Per Capita Income	\$19,229	\$28,553
Median Monthly Mortgage	\$1,096	\$1,559

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Median Price of Single Family Homes	1994	2000	% Increase
East Fishkill	\$159,000	\$197,000	23.9%
Dutchess County	\$132,000	\$155,000	17.4%

Source: NYS Office of Real Property Tax

In addition to the Comprehensive Plan and local laws, the Town has recently completed a biodiversity study conducted by Hudsonia to identify the habitats and locations of many different species of animals in East Fishkill. This study divides the town into 21 natural habitat mapping units and identifies ways to protect these habitats even in the face of growth pressures. The information collected will be used to make informed decisions when reviewing development proposals.

East Fishkill has recognized that Dutchess County will continue to expand and attract businesses and people to the area. Since it is important to balance development with the elements of our communities that make us a unique and attractive place to live, we empower our local boards to make the good decisions by giving them the tools to carry them out. 🌳

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground, but instead runs off into storm sewers and into our waterways. Concentrated development in urban/suburban areas substantially increases impervious surfaces (roads, parking lots, buildings, etc.) and other uses which generate pollutants such as fertilizers, pesticides, oils, salts, litter and sediment. These pollutants wash into our rivers, lakes and wetlands via stormwater runoff, often resulting in siltation and erosion, overgrowth of algae, fish kills, destruction of spawning and wildlife habitats, and contamination of drinking water supplies and recreational waterways that can threaten human health.

Once sediments and other pollutants have entered a waterbody and its physical structure and habitat have been damaged, it is difficult and expensive to restore it to its original condition. The prevention of this damage through "stormwater management" has become an essential step in reducing the pollution in our waterways.

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Since the passage of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (later known as the Clean Water Act) in 1972, the quality of our nation's waters has dramatically improved. Under the Clean Water Act, the EPA developed Phase I of the NPDES Storm Water Program in 1990. In New York State, this program is administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) through its State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) program. A SPDES permit satisfies the federal NPDES permit requirement.

Phase I addressed sources of stormwater runoff that had the greatest potential to negatively affect water quality by requiring NPDES permits for stormwater discharges from:

- ♦ "Medium" and "large" MS4s located in incorporated places or counties with populations of 100,000 or more; and
- ♦ 11 categories of industrial activity, including construction activity that disturbs five or more acres of land.

Phase II "automatically" covers two classes of stormwater discharges:

- 1) Operators of "small" MS4s located in "urbanized areas" (see definition*).
- 2) Operators of small construction activities that disturb between one and five acres of land.

MS4s include storm sewer systems operated by: municipal governments; state and county highway departments; other state agencies and authorities; airports; state and community colleges; post offices; VA hospitals; prisons; and water, sewer and special districts. Additional MS4s located outside of urbanized areas, construction activity disturbing less than one acre, and any other stormwater discharges may also be designated for coverage if DEC determines that stormwater controls are necessary. DEC may also waive some "automatically

designated" Phase II dischargers if they meet certain criteria.

Within the Dutchess County Urbanized Area, there are 11 municipalities that are automatically subject to the Phase II regulations: the Cities of Beacon and



Construction sites are significant contributors of damaging sediments and other pollutants. According to the EPA, sediment runoff rates from construction sites are typically 10 to 20 times greater than those from agricultural lands, and 1,000 to 2,000 times greater than forestlands.

Poughkeepsie, the Towns of East Fishkill, Fishkill, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, and Wappinger, and the Villages of Fishkill and Wappingers Falls. DEC may designate others.

To comply with the Phase II Final Rule, MS4 operators must apply for a SPDES permit and develop, implement and enforce a stormwater management program to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the "maximum extent practicable". The stormwater management program must include six minimum control measures:

- 1) Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts
- 2) Public Participation/Involvement
- 3) Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
- 4) Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control
- 5) Post-Construction Stormwater Management
- 6) Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations

Operators of small construction sites must apply for a SPDES general construction permit. This includes submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) with a stormwater pollution prevention plan and appropriate Best

Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the discharge of pollutants from the site. The operator must also submit a Notice of Termination (NOT) when final stabilization of the site has been achieved as defined in the permit.

The EPA recommends some BMPs for small construction sites, which are divided into two categories: structural and non-structural. Structural BMPs include mulch, grass, stockpile covers, silt fence, inlet protection, check dams, stabilized construction entrances, and sediment traps. Non-structural BMPs include minimizing disturbance, preserving natural vegetation, and good housekeeping.

The timetable for implementing Phase II is as follows:

December 8, 2002-NYS DEC must have issued general permits for Phase II-designated small MS4s and

small construction activity, and have designated additional small MS4s.

March 10, 2003-Operators of Phase II-designated small MS4s and small construction activities must have filed NOIs for their programs.

March 10, 2008-Phase II Fully Implemented: MS4s must have six-point stormwater management programs fully operational.

More information about these programs can be found on DEC's website www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/mainpage.htm, or EPA's website http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/swphase2.cfm?program_id=6.

*An "urbanized area" is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as "land area comprising one or more places and the adjacent densely settled surrounding area that together have a residential population of at least 50,000 and an overall population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile." (See related story *New Urbanized Area Boundaries Established*).

Two Planning Department Staff Members Win National Awards

Congratulations to Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development's Graphics Section, namely Dennis L. Amone and Patricia M. Houston for their award-winning entries in this year's National Association of County Information Officers (NACIO) Awards of Excellence Competition.



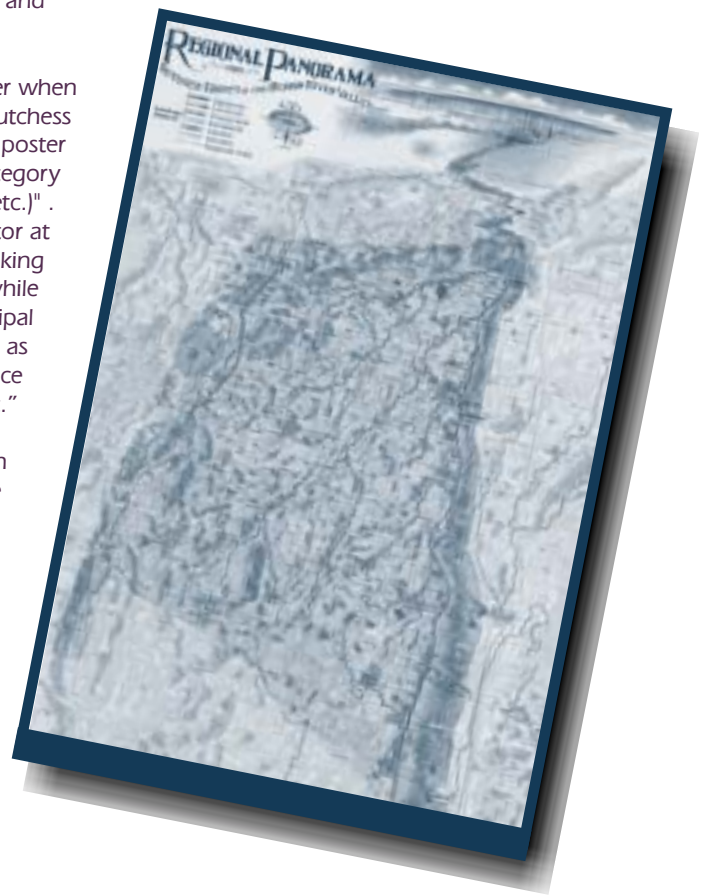
Dennis L. Amone, who recently retired from his position as Graphic Designer, won "Best of Class", for the 2001 publication of "Greenway Connections, Greenway Compact Program and Guides for Dutchess County Communities". Although his entry was in the category of "Graphic Design, Graphics for Brochures and Publications", it was judged best of *all* categories in his class. His is one of only two "Best of Class" awards given out nationwide. (There are sets of awards given out in two classes: Counties with populations over 500,000, and Counties with populations under 500,000, the latter of which Dutchess County falls into). This is quite an honor (and a great note to retire on!), considering there were over 540 entries this year. "Greenway Connections" is a regional plan to implement Greenway Principles throughout Dutchess County and the Hudson River Valley, and it will serve as a model for other counties. It targets local municipalities and the public in general, and to date 23 of 30 Dutchess County municipalities have adopted the Greenway Program and incorporated Greenway Principles into their zoning laws, thereby becoming eligible for grants and other incentives.

Pat Houston, who took over as Graphic Designer when Dennis retired, won for her entry "Regional Panorama-Dutchess County in the Hudson River Valley", a poster that was printed in 2001. The poster she created with watercolor, acrylic and ink was judged "Superior" in the category of "Graphic Design, Special Graphics (including posters, ads, flags, banners, etc.)".

The concept was that of John Clarke, Development and Design Coordinator at Planning. The artwork depicts a birds-eye view of Dutchess County, looking south down the Hudson River to New York City. It draws peoples' interest while showing Dutchess County as part of a larger region – but without municipal boundaries. The Panorama highlights primary historic settlement centers as well as other landmarks and attractions. As the artist says, "You'll notice something new every time you look at it."

Of note, there were also two other Dutchess County award winners: John Storm of the Department of Health, judged "Meritorious" for "West Nile Virus Protection", under the category of "Public Service Announcements"; and Maryann Lohrey of the Department of Mental Hygiene, judged "Superior" for "Project Liberty", under the category of "Citizen Education Projects".

Copies of "Greenway Connections" and the "Regional Panorama" poster are available through the Department of Planning and Development, by calling (845) 486-3600. They are free of charge, with a fee for mailing.



New Census Data For Dutchess County

By Lindsay Carille, Planner

Demographic Profiles for New York State, based on the 2000 Census, were released in May by the U.S. Census Bureau. The profiles are based on data collected from a sample of the population (1 in 6 households), and include a basic overview of selected social, economic, and housing conditions. More detailed sample survey data will be released this summer.

Overall, Dutchess County Census figures show impressive percentages of high school and college graduates, a high level of employment, and notable increases in income levels. According to Dutchess County Executive William R. Steinhaus, "The new demographic profile information shows that Dutchess has continued to grow, while importantly maintaining all the qualities that make our County a location of choice and such a desirable place to live and raise a family."

Figures on educational attainment show that of the "25 and over" population of Dutchess, 84% are high school graduates or higher (up from 79.8% in 1990), and 27.6% have a bachelor's degree or higher (up from 24.8% in 1990). These percentages are higher

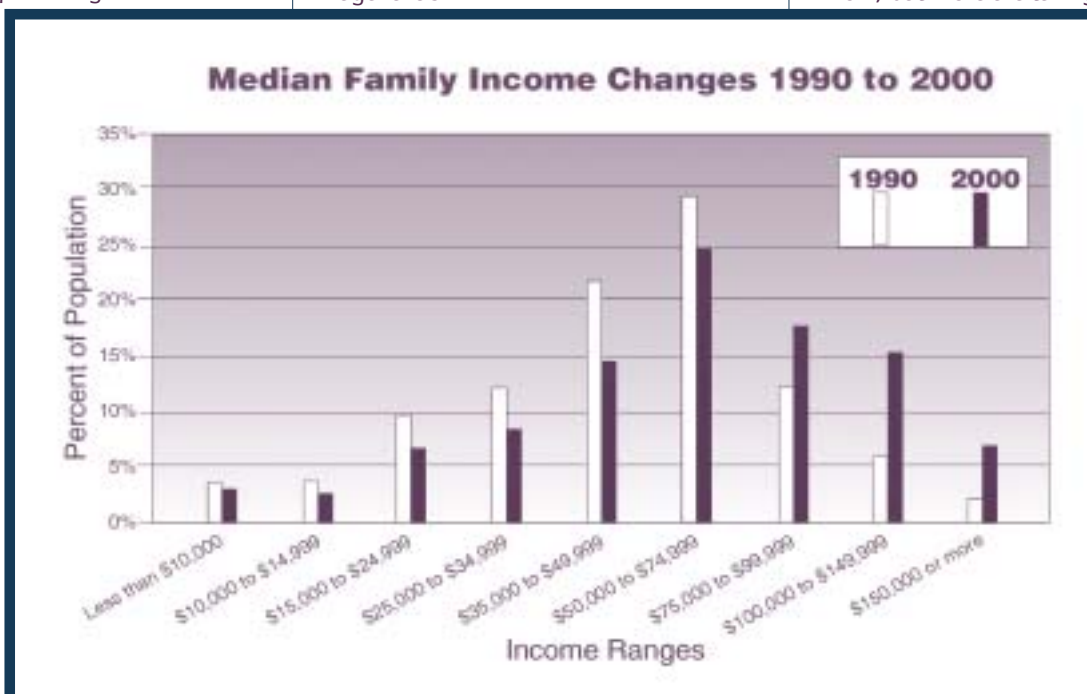
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than the New York State average, and out of 62 New York counties we rank 16th in percentage of high school graduates and 11th in percentage with a bachelor's degree or higher. Dutchess County has shown an increase in the percentage of the population enrolled in preschool and kindergarten (8.6% in 1990 to 11.7% in 2000), and an increase in the percentage of elementary and high school enrollment (59.8% in 1990 to 62.9% in 2000). There was a decrease in the percentage of the population enrolled in college and graduate school (31.6% in 1990 to 25.4% in 2000). As the percentage of the under 30 population has actually decreased since 1990 (down 9.4%), it would appear that most of the "baby-boomer" generation's children are already in the schools, and future enrollments will most likely start to decrease at the lower levels. Grades 1-8 now have the high-est percentage of enrollments at 42.9%, so the high schools and colleges should be prepared.

Income figures for Dutchess County show that our median incomes rank near the top among New York counties. Median household income has increased by 25.6%

since the 1990 Census and is now \$53,086, approximately 23% higher than the New York State median of \$43,393. Median family income has risen 28.3% to \$63,254, and per capita income has risen 37.4% to \$23,940. Our per capita income ranks 8th highest out of the 62 New York counties, the same ranking as in 1990. "Especially impressive are results showing large increases in various wage levels above \$75,000 annually, and an actual decrease in each income category below the \$75,000 level," stated County Executive Steinhaus.

The following chart illustrates the wage levels:



Interestingly, the gap between the median incomes of full-time male workers and full-time female workers is narrowing. While females continue to have median incomes that are almost \$15,000 less than male workers, the percentage increase in

income since 1990 is higher for female workers than for males. Male workers, at \$45,576, saw a 23.4% increase in median income since 1990, and female workers, at \$30,706, saw a 36.5% increase in median income.

The release also includes data about how we get to work. The results show that 88% of workers who live in Dutchess drive to work in a private automobile, the vast majority of them (78.5%) by themselves. We saw an increase in the number of people who work at home, which is up from 2,991 to 4,162. Fewer Dutchess County residents are walking to work, but more are taking public

transportation (5,342 in 2000 versus 3,620 in 1990). This may also have contributed to the increase in the mean travel time by more than 5 minutes, from 24.5 to 29.8. The Town of Pawling had the highest average travel time at 38.3 minutes, up from 27.9 minutes in 1990. Information about where these workers are traveling

to will be released by the Census Bureau this summer.

For the complete profile information for Dutchess County, please visit our webpage at www.co.dutchess.ny.us.

Central Dutchess Water Line Project To Start

By Scott Chase, DCWWA Executive Director

The Dutchess County Water and Wastewater Authority (DCWWA) has received funding approvals enabling the start of engineering for development of a 13 mile (24 to 30 inch diameter) water transmission pipeline and pump station capacity. The proposed pipeline will have the ability to carry excess water from the jointly owned City/Town of Poughkeepsie Water Plant on the Hudson River to potential residential, commercial, and industrial users in the Towns of LaGrange, Wappinger, and East Fishkill. The water line will begin in the vicinity of Overocker Road in the Town of Poughkeepsie and will follow the County-owned former railroad corridor (Maybrook Rail Branch Line) to Hopewell Junction, where it will move to public highways from the vicinity of NYS Rt. 376 to NYS Rt.52. The water line will provide additional capacity, redundancy, and reliability to the systems that are able to connect along the corridor, enabling the sharing of water resources. The initial concept for the water line was outlined in the 1987 County Master Plan Directions, prepared by the Dutchess County Department of Planning.

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Following construction of the water supply pipeline along the Maybrook Corridor, a paved Rail-Trail for hiking, biking, and other linear trail activities is planned.

Costs for the 24-inch line are estimated at \$23.25 million, with funding from three sources: New York State (\$11.25 million), IBM (\$9 million), and Dutchess County (\$3 million). The projected \$23.25 million is a preliminary estimate; the project will go through a detailed design and bidding process to establish the true project cost.

The pipeline will have a minimum capacity of 8 to 12 million gallons per day (mgd). At least 4 mgd of source water can be supplied from the Poughkeepsie water plant at this time. Construction within the corridor will be carried out in a manner that allows the potential for siting future fiber-optic cables, a natural gas line, and sewer lines, in addition to a planned recreational trail.

Schedule - An environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act has been completed for the pipeline project. Detailed engineering design will be initiated in June of 2002, and construction is anticipated to be completed in late 2004 into 2005. 🌳

2003-2007 Consolidated Plan Completed 2003 CDBG and HOME Applications Released

by Elizabeth Doyle, Community Development Administrator and Anne Saylor, Housing Coordinator

The Dutchess County 2003-2007 Consolidated Plan has been completed by the Department of Planning and Development with assistance from Shingebiss Associates. The Plan outlines the priorities for the County's Community Development and HOME Investment Partnership Programs for the next five years. The 2003-2007 priorities are:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Transportation
3. Infrastructure Systems
4. Youth
5. Literacy
6. Families in Stress
7. Child Care
8. Elder Care
9. Economic Development
10. Health Services
11. Handicapped Accessibility
12. Disabilities
13. Substance Abuse
14. Public Safety
15. Parks and Recreation
16. Historic Preservation

The Plan is available from the Planning Department for a fee of \$5.00, plus shipping or at the County's website www.dutchessny.gov.

Upon the completion of the Consolidated Plan, the County released its 2003 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) applications.

Community Development Block Grant funds are available to participating municipalities for a range of activities including infrastructure, disabled improvements, parks and recreation, historic preservation and human service program services. All projects must be located in areas that are defined low to moderate income or for limited clientele populations that are, by nature, considered low to moderate income. Applications and guidelines for the CDBG Program are available by contacting Elizabeth Doyle, Community Development Administrator at 486-3600.

HOME funds are available to subsidize a variety of affordable housing projects including the creation of new apartments through either new construction or rehabilitation, and the creation of homeownership opportunities. Units created through the HOME program must be affordable to households at 60% of the county median income and will be rent and income restricted. Applications and guidelines for the HOME Program are available by contacting Anne Saylor, Housing Coordinator, at 486-3600.

Applications for both programs are due to Dutchess County Planning and Development, 27 High Street, Poughkeepsie, NY by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 21, 2002. 🌳

Staff Notes

This past December, two of the mainstays of the Planning and Development Department retired from County service. Christine Squires, Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner, who served under four Commissioners since 1974, was professionally valued for her competence and organizational ability. Commissioner Roger Akeley, who worked with Chris for 18 years, said, "Chris had high standards and expected the best performance from others. She was able to correct my errors and almost never made any of her own." Chris was adept at personnel and budgeting practices, assisting the Water and Wastewater Authority, the Criminal Justice Council, Traffic Safety Board and other entities during her tenure.

Chris and her husband, Jeff, are exploring the Country and hope to

eventually find the ideal retirement location.

Shortly after Chris bid the County farewell, Dennis Amon, Graphic Designer, who had joined the County work force in 1963, left for the greener golf courses of Florida with his wife, Lea. Dennis possessed unique and extensive skills in the area of graphic design and was responsible for most of the artwork produced for County departments. His knowledge of modern graphic techniques and ability to understand and produce "just what the customer ordered", was coupled with the capacity to maintain a consistently high quality of graphics produced by his division. He cared deeply about the Department, and this was evident in all that he produced.


Both Dennis and Chris will be missed personally and professionally by Planning and Development, as they each added to the character, humor and success of the Department.

Replacing Chris Squires as Administrative Assistant to the Commissioner is Mary McFarlane, who joined the County in 1995 after many years of experience in the private corporate sector. Prior to joining Planning and Development, Mary worked for the Buildings Division of Public Works and the Office of the County Executive. She has adjusted well to the administrative and technical needs of the Department, possesses excellent writing and organizational skills and fits right in with the Planning "family."

Patricia M. Houston, formerly the GIS Specialist for Planning and Development, has taken over as Graphic Designer for the County. Pat began as a Drafting Technician with the County in 1993, after having worked 10 years in mapping and surveying, and has continued to develop and demonstrate her skills. Her extensive artistic talent, mapping and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) experience will enable her to maintain the high-quality graphics that are vital to the County's needs.

We wish Mary and Pat good luck in their new positions. 🌳

How they looked back then...



How they looked when they left the job...

We miss you both!

Urbanized Area Boundary Expands

By Kealy Salomon, Transportation Program Administrator

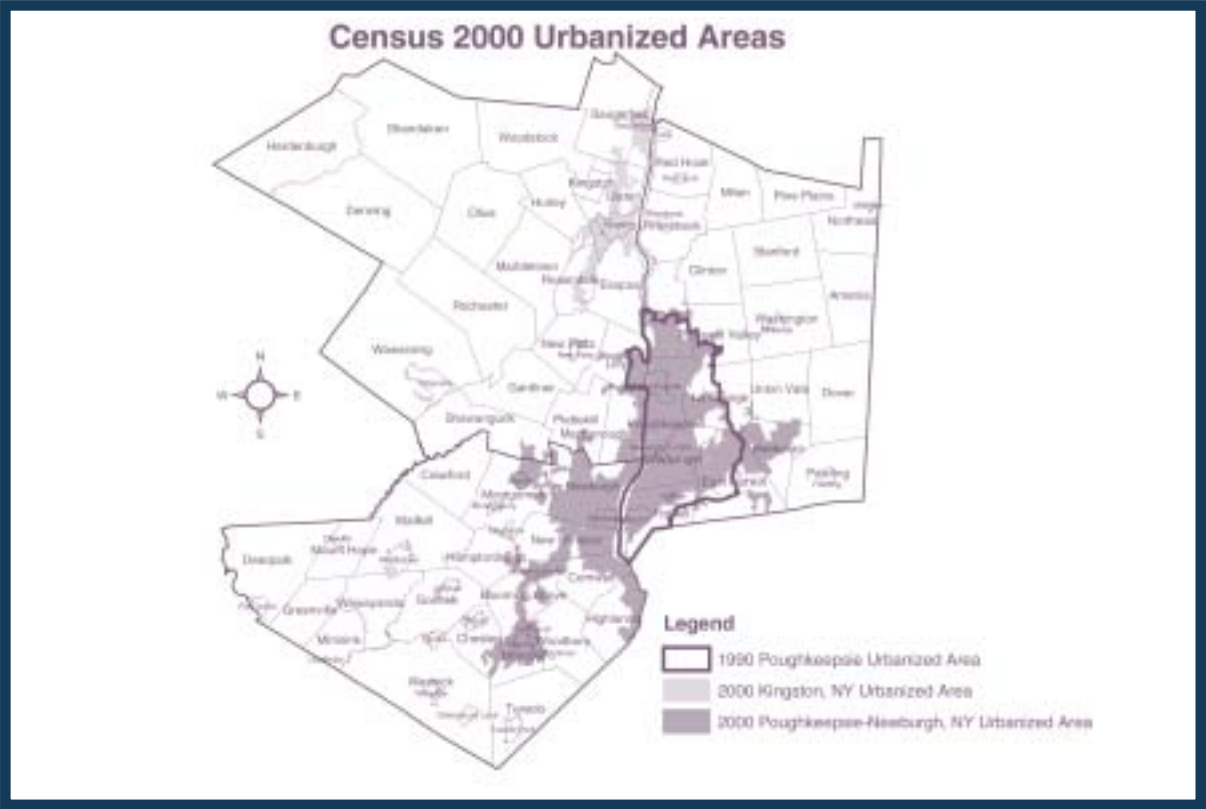
The line that officially separates "urban" from "rural" in Dutchess County moved east between 1990 and 2000, confirming what has been apparent for some time- that we are growing rapidly and in a suburban, sprawling pattern. Every 10 years the US Census Bureau makes a determination about which areas are urban and which are rural using data from the decennial census. The Census Bureau also designates urbanized areas (UA) that are defined as "...contiguous, densely settled census block groups and census blocks...that together encompass a population of at least 50,000 people." The new designations brought some surprises for Dutchess and the neighboring counties of Orange and Ulster.

In 1980, the Poughkeepsie UA included all or part of the cities of Beacon and Poughkeepsie, and the towns of Fishkill, East Fishkill, Hyde Park, LaGrange, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie, and Wappinger. By 1990, the UA had crossed the river to take in the Town of Lloyd in Ulster County. Based on the 2000 Census, the new most recent designations combine the existing Poughkeepsie and Newburgh (Orange County) urbanized areas into a single large urbanized area, now known as the *Poughkeepsie—Newburgh, NY Transportation Management Area*, that includes more than 351,000 people in three counties. In all three counties the urbanized boundary has been

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extended out from the traditional core cities. In Dutchess the new boundary includes portions of the towns of Beekman and Union Vale for the first time. In addition, the population in Kingston and its adjacent towns exceeded 50,000, making it one of the three new urbanized areas in New York State (the others are Middletown and Saratoga Springs). The implications of these changes are not fully

known at this time, but there will be changes in federal highway and transit funding. Ulster County and the City of Kingston will also need to establish a transportation planning process similar to Dutchess and Orange Counties, which includes the preparation of a long-range transportation plan and a capital program. 🌳



PLAN ON IT

A Dutchess County Planning Federation Newsletter